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OAKENGATES  
URBAN DISTRICT.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
Medical Officer of  
Health  
For 1937.

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# Oakengates Urban District Council.

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of your District for the year 1937.

The Birth rate shows an increase on 1936, but is below the rate for the country. The Death rate shows a slight increase but it is gratifying to note that the Infantile Mortality Rate has been halved and is below that of the country.

There has been a decided fall in the number of cases of Diphtheria.

I beg to draw your attention to my notes on Housing and Food Inspection to be found under the revelant sections.

Incorporated is a summary of the work carried out by the Public Health Staff, and I take this opportunity of thanking them for their care in carrying out the duties of their offices in co-operation with me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

**W. A. M. STEWART,**

M.B. L.R.C.P. D.P.H.

## Officers.

Medical Officer of Health	...	W. A. M. STEWART.
Sanitary Inspector	...	A. BENNETT.
Surveyor of Sanitary Work	...	M. S LEE.

## Section A.     **Statistics and Social Conditions.**

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	2,396
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid. 1937	...	...	...	10,710
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	2,500
Rateable value	...	...	...	£29,963
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£108
Persons per acre calculated on the population				4.4

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.—This almost entirely industrial district has within its boundaries thriving works and factories which provide employment to a somewhat concentrated population. Steel, iron and coal together with brickmaking are the principal heavy industries, while toy-making is carried on in a small scale. The Town, itself, lies in a hollow and the climatic protection thus



afforded is offset by the tendency to the accumulation of smoke and soot consistent with an industrial area. With the redevelopment, advantage is being taken of the more open surroundings of the town, and new buildings are being erected in least confined areas. The houses of the people, built to meet the industrial requirements of a past century, have in many cases served their purpose, and the Town is now faced with the necessity of having to provide modern dwellings to re-house many of its population under healthy and congenial conditions to meet the standards of the present day. The educational facilities are good and a technical college provides training for the working youth of the district.

### Vital Statistics for the year 1937.

		M.	F.	Totals	
Live Births :	Legitimate	80	63	143	} Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 13.8.
	Illegitimate	3	3	6	
				149	
Still Births :	Legitimate	3	2	5	} Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 32
	Illegitimate	0	0		
Deaths all causes		89	54	143	Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 13.3
Deaths from puerperal causes :					
Puerperal sepsis 0.					
Other Puerperal causes 0. Rate per 1000 total live and still births ... .. 0					
Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—					
All infants per 1000 live births ... .. 47 7 deaths					
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 42 6 „					
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births ... .. 166 1					
Deaths from Cancer, all ages				18	
„ Measles, all ages				0	
„ Whooping Cough, all ages				0	
„ Diarrhoea (under two years of age)				0	

POPULATION.—The Mid Year population shows a decrease of 140 on the calculated mid-year population of 1936.

BIRTHS —The number of live births (149) shows an increase of 28 on 1936, and the rate 13.8 compares with 12.0 for 1936. The rate for England and Wales is 14.9.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths from all causes was 143, (M. 59 and F. 54) compares with 125 for 1936.

The crude death rate 13.3 after considering the areal comparability factor 0.99 (supplied by the Registrar-General) gives an adjusted death rate of 13.1. The rate for 1936 was 11.5, and the average death rate for previous 5 years was 12.6. The rate for England and Wales 12.4.

The principal causes of death were :—

Nephritis	...	...	...	6
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth	...	...	...	4
Senility	...	...	...	6
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	11
Heart Disease	...	...	...	22
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	21
Pneumonia	...	...	...	7
Suicide	...	...	...	1
Other Forms of Violence	...	...	...	5
Other causes excluding infective conditions	...	...	...	26

Infective conditions :—

Influenza	...	...	...	12
Tuberculosis (respiratory system)	...	...	...	3
Cancer	...	...	...	18
Other causes	...	...	...	1

The number of deaths from cancer is slightly lower, while that of heart and circulatory diseases remains about the same as that of 1936.

There were no deaths from measles, whooping cough scarlet fever or diptheria.

Death rate for Tuberculosis (Phthisis) and Cancer :—

1936	0.18	per 1000 population	1.9
1937	0.28		1.12

Infantile Mortality rate :—

1936	...	91	per 1000 live births.
1937	...	47	

Rate for England and Wales

...	58
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Excepting 1936, the following tables shows a steady decrease in rate.

Average rate 5 years	...	1908-12 inclusive	...	102
		1913-17	...	99
		1218-22	...	81
		1923-27	...	73
		1928-32	...	69

Causes of death in infants under 1 year :—

Premature Birth	...	3
Broncho Pneumonia	...	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	1
Exposure	...	1
Status Lymphaticus	...	1

As in 1936 there were no deaths from puerperal causes.

## Section B. **General Provision of Health Services for the Area.**

1—See first page of Report.

2—Laboratory facilities: Birmingham University still carries out all bacteriological and pathological examination under the County Council Scheme, as there is no County Laboratory.

3—The ambulance facilities are unchanged. This service is under private enterprise and does not provide complete facilities for the needs of the district. There is no mortuary in the district.

## Section C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

**WATER SUPPLY, DRAINAGE and SEWERAGE.**—An inspection was made of the private supplies of certain out-lying farms to ascertain the suitability for domestic and other uses. Samples were taken for analysis. Steps where necessary, were taken to improve the supplies, and in certain cases the public service was recommended.

Examinations of the Town Water were made at intervals with satisfactory results.

The following is an account furnished by the Surveyor of Sanitary work for the year ending 31st December, 1937.

Certificates issued for water supply to new houses	...	19
Houses connected to public water supply	... ..	47
Repairs to public pumps and wells	... ..	New pumps and Engine fixed at Sheriffhales Waterworks and well deepened by a borehole.
Houses connected to public sewerage	... ..	50
Lengths of new sewers laid	... ..	158 yards 6"
		280 yards 4"
Lengths of new water mains laid	... ..	27 yards 3"

**CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**—It is satisfactory to note that a number of privies have been abolished, but there is still far too many.

Privies were abolished at the following properties :—

2 to 10, Teagues Bridge, 26 and 28, Goulbourne Road, 36 to 44, New Road, Wrockwardine Wood, 81, 83, 85, New Street, St. George's, 1, Field Road, Trench, 61, New Road, 31, 33, New Road, Rose Villa, Slaney Street, 14 and 16, Holyhead Road, 91, 93, 95, 97, New Street, St. George's.

Eighteen privies have been abolished and twenty-nine water closets provided complete, premises redrained and connected to the Council sewers.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING.**—The service of refuse collection for the Town and district is carried out by the Sanitary Department, and regular collections are made at intervals varying from one to two weeks according to district. Sanitary dustbins are gradually replacing the old ashpits.

**SANITARY INSPECTION.**—The Sanitary Inspector carried out the following work in the year.

a Number of houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey	... ..	362
a Please note that this number should include all houses inspected, including those under the Housing Acts, but not houses that are visited for another purpose without an inspection of the premises	... ..	287
Number of informal notices sent	... ..	28
Number of such notices complied with	... ..	26
Number of letters written	... ..	718



## Particulars of Sanitary Matters referred to in the above Notices :—

<i>a.</i> Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	12
<i>b.</i> Deficient or objectionable water supply	... ..	6
<i>c.</i> New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended	...	29
<i>d.</i> New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction	... ..	29
<i>e.</i> Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition	... ..	69
<i>f.</i> Offensive accumulations of all kinds	... ..	8
<i>g.</i> Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	... ..	5
<i>h.</i> Unsuitable refuse receptacles replaced with regulation dust-bins	... ..	86
<i>i.</i> Filthy or verminous premises or articles cleansed	...	45
<i>j.</i> Nuisances arising from tents, vans, sheds or similar structures used for human habitation	... ..	2
Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis)	...	14
Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis	... ..	8
Privies converted to water closets	... ..	29

SCHOOLS.—It was not found necessary to close any schools for infectious diseases during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS—There are no swimming baths in the district.

## Section D. Housing.

### 1—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

1. <i>a.</i> Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	... ..	205
<i>b.</i> Number of Inspections made for the purpose	... ..	275
2. <i>a.</i> Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	... ..	...
<i>b.</i> Number of Inspections made for the purpose	... ..	275
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	35
4. Number of dwelling-houses, exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head, found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	170

### 2—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	50
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### 3—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

<i>b.</i> Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—		
1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	38
2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
<i>a</i> —by owners	... ..	38

c. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	66
2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	21
d. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	0

#### 4—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

a.—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	311
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	321
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	1447
b.—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	0
c —(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	13
d.—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	2
Plans for new houses passed	17 houses, 2 bungalows 19

Early in the year a Clearance Scheme was presented, and about 60 families should benefit when the houses for the Scheme are completed. It has been noticeable in the year that the frequency of complaints from this district has been very high. As far as possible complaints have received personal attention, and in practically every case faults were present to be remedied. While it may be difficult to eradicate all cause for complaint the attention of the Council should be turned to alleviate such cases as :—persons who are living in houses which have been condemned for some years and have not been cleared, overcrowding where adults of both sexes in a family are sleeping in a common room, where sanitary accommodation is inadequate.

## Section E. **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

### Inspection of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops for the Year ended 31st December, 1937.

Number of cowkeepers and milksellers on register	50
Number of premises—cowsheds	26
dairies	26
milkshops	14
Number of above cowkeepers and milksellers who hold licenses under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, in respect of :—	
a. Establishment of producers and bottlers	Tuberculin Tested 0
	Accredited 2
b. Establishment of producers only	Accredited 2
c. Supplementary licenses to sell milk from shops or other establishments outside the area of the licensing authority	
	Pasteurised 1
Number of Inspections	41



Defects found	1—in cowsheds				
	a. floor or cubic space	...	...	...	2
	b. ventilation	...	...	...	2
	c. lighting	...	...	...	2
	d. structure of floor	...	...	...	2
	e. drainage	...	...	...	2
	f. cleanliness	...	...	...	8
	2—in surroundings of cowsheds	...	...	...	6
	3—in sanitary condition of drains	...	...	...	6
	4—in sanitary condition of milkshops	...	...	...	2
	5—in water supply	...	...	...	5
Number of notices—verbal and written	...	...	...	...	8
Number of these notices complied with	...	...	...	...	8

### Meat and other Foods Inspection.

1—Number of Slaughter Houses in district	...	...	16
2—Number of Persons Licensed to stun and slaughter animals in slaughter houses and knackers' yards	...	...	26
3—Action taken with regard to inspections of slaughter houses, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared :—			
Stalls and vehicles are visited Market days.			
Frequent visits to Slaughter houses.			
4—Remarks.	Beast liver 15 lbs., One cwt. Barrel of Apples, 14 lb. tin of tongue, destroyed.		

Stricter control of the the records of Meat supervision is essential to be able to report on the standard of the Meat in the district.

### Section F. Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

It is gratifying to note that the number of cases of Diphtheria was small. This may be due to some extent to the good response to immunisation. The Sanitary Inspector informs me that 883 cases have been immunised completely, and this should be reflected on the incidence of this disease in future years. The number of Scarlet Fever cases remains about the same.

#### Notifiable Disease (other than Tuberculosis).

Disease	Total Cases Notified		Cases admitted to Hospital 1937	Deaths
	1937	1936		
Scarlet Fever	9	7	2	0
Diphtheria	5	46	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0	0	0
Pneumonia	14	3	0	0
Erysipelas	1	2	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0	0	0

Age Incidence	Scarlet Fever	Diph.	Pneum.	Puerperal Pyrexia
Under 1 year	0	0	1	0
3—4 years	0	0	1	0
4—5	1	0	1	0
5—10	5	1	0	0
10—15	2	1	1	0
15—20	0	2	2	1
20—35	1	1	3	1
35—45	0	0	1	0
45—65	0	0	2	0
65 and over	0	0	2	0

## Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during 1937.

Age period.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1—5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
5—15	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
15—25	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
25—35	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35—45	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
44—55	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The following cases remain on the Registers.

Pulmonary		Total	Non-Pulmonary		Total
M.	F.		M.	F.	
35	24	59	28	38	66

## Section G. **Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.**

### 1—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	8	0	0
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	23	0	0
Workplaces (other than Outworkers premises)	11	0	0
	42	0	0

### 2—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars	Defects found	Defects remedied	H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness	6	6	0	0
Want of Ventilation	2	2	0	0
Want of Drainage of floors	2	2	0	0
	10	10	0	0





